

ISSUE 18.

WRESTLING

THEN & NOW

7-91

Evan Ginzburg-Editor/Publisher P.O. Box 471 Oakland Gardens Station Flushing, NY 11364

HOLLYWOOD

LEGION

STADIUM

El Centro and
Hollywood Blvd.

McGuirk

**Will
Defend**

**His
Title
in
Sept.**

**—
Watch
for
Date**



**MONDAY
SEPTEMBER**

9th 1940

**Call HO. 2951
For Reservations**

**TITLE
BOUTS IN
EVERY
DIVISION
WILL
BE HELD
AT
LEGION
STADIUM**

Champion "Wild Red" Berry

WORLD'S LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT WRESTLING CHAMPION

(Recognized by National Wrestling Association)

Wild Red Berry made good on last Monday Nite and regained his light heavyweight championship crown from Jesse James. Berry has been shooting at this mark for quite a while and with the able assistance of K. O. Koverly as his second he managed to outsmart the clever Greek, James, and win the deciding fall after a wild bout.

LETTERS TO WT&N



I'm 46 and a well known artist. 26 years ago I trained for professional wrestling under the late Paul Boesch of Houston, and the late Otto Kus of Minnesota, as well as Roney Burke, Morris Segal of Houston, Jack (Von Eric) Atkinson of Dallas. My greatest, longest friends were June Beyer and old Sam Mennecker who called himself, New York King of the Jews.

My question to you Evan, what happened to the industry?

At one time Texas had 72 towns on the Segal Circuit, now a few shows a year come into Houston.

One thing is really noticeable- in the old days, a Texas Death Match was so realistic, the police had to be told at the start that it was a show. With these new guys, I see a lot of comedy but little sincerity.

Remember Wild Bull Curry and Dangerous Danny McShain (Editor's note: See cover WT&N #16 for McShain-E.G.), this grudge scenario always happened in the Dallas Sportatorium, 5000 seats- a metal building 140 by 188 ft. It was almost impossible to tell it wasn't real.

Bull Curry started the wrestling industry in fighting outside of the ring with chairs. The Olympic Auditorium in Los Angeles barred him, because insurance laws would not allow two men on the floor and the old Madison Square Garden had double ropes and a large apron to keep all the activity inside.

Later on, the rules allowed two men outside if they stayed within three feet of the ring and spent no more than 5-10 seconds outside, with a 12 foot rope, metal gate around the ring to protect the crowd.

Bull Curry and Hunchback went at it at San Antonio's Old Auditorium. Under Dorothy Livenood, they stayed outside and fought in the balcony, threw trash cans and chairs, until city officials said NO MORE outside the ring activities! NOT ONE MORE INCIDENT! This is how many promotions were in San Antonio then:

1. Benny Mata Productions. 1500 seats.
2. Mexico City Productions. Their own 2000 seat arena.
3. Skyline Ballroom Wrestling Arena. 1500 seats.
4. Livengood's City Arena- 5000 seats
5. Livengood's Wrestling- 1700 seats.
6. Joe Blanchard's Blanco Arena- 1000 seats.
7. Lucha Libre Arena- 1500 seats.
8. Joe Freeman Coliseum- 8000 seats.
9. Hemisfair (Jack Atkinson's)- 14000 seats.

Blanchard got thrown out of the Hemisfair Arena when he had a death match on a 3 foot platform 20 feet above the ring. A fan went up to stop it, a policeman followed and broke his leg. All arenas had tons of fights.

Ed McLeMore owned the Sportatorium in Dallas; it had 10000 seats and burned down, leaving 5000 seats. Also Pappy's Showland- 4000 seats- burned down. It was a pioneer of several independent promotions. This wasn't allowed then.

San Antonio led the nation with shows: Houston had only one auditorium, Dallas two at one time. Jack took over Ed McLeMore's arena after Jack earned Ed's favor: Ed died.

No rules could stop wrestlers outside the ring activities. Finally ropes and gates were set up. New rules would not allow the wrestlers to fight in the audience and aisles.

Mark Lewin and Bull Curry were the best in the wrestling business in tearing up the whole arena to the point of fighting in the concession stands, and even going outside and fighting in the parking lot in Houston.

El Santo Productions in Mexico City had a 7 balcony 14,000 seat coliseum always jammed to the rafters. Juarez used the 12000 seat downtown bull ring. There was also a drive in theatre downtown that sat 2000.

I do not smoke or drink. I knew Gino (Wolf) Hernandez, world champion a few years ago. Gino died of drugs. David Atkinson, Von Erich, died of drugs. His other wrestling brother killed himself because he took drugs- a third brother died of electrocution (accident). Drugs and steroids took over the industry...

The greatest real wrestler Sam and I saw was Basil Batath- only 148 pounds. In the gym, no wrestler could take him. Sam had to stop Basil from killing two wrestlers in the dressing room once.

Bull Curry, Texas top money-maker in 25 years of wrestling, could not wrestle. He knew not one hold. He would throw his opponent outside the ring, and that's where Texas Death matches, chain matches started. Blood started with natural bleeders like Mark Lewin, Bull Curry, Danny McShane. Killer Joe Christy also put on an excellent show. At this time New York wrestling was a bore compared to Texas matches.

Shooting is common in Mexico as tempers can not be controlled. Federal police once shot M-1 rifles in the air to stop a match I was at once as well as turn off lights many times. Now wrestling is a sideshow. In the old days it was magic- a profession.

The greatest smoothest wrestlers I've ever seen, in shooting gym matches:

1. Blue Demon TIED WITH

1. Basil Batath
2. Rito Romero
3. Lou Thesz
4. El Santo
5. Verne Gagne
6. Big Bill Miller

7. Wilbur Snyder, who beat the hell out of Dick the Bruiser in front of Sam in a Kansas City Hotel.

Best street brawlers:

1. Wild Bull Curry
2. Carvanaro Galindo (Mexico City)
3. Dick the Bruiser
4. Maurice Vachon - injured more wrestlers than any other.
5. French Angel- killed more wrestlers in Mexico City than anyone.
6. Jack Von Erich- in his youth
7. Mark Lewin- a real street fighter
8. Len Crosby. Bronx N.Y. Tough guy.
9. The Butcher. Mexico City
10. Danny McShane

Outside of Basil Batath, I feel the Blue Demon was the greatest technical wrestler.

Paul died in Houston after marrying a younger woman. Paul kept the Houston circuit going. Before he died he started to allow it to become part of the North Carolina circuit. He didn't like the stranglehold on wrestling. He could no longer call the shots. Paul was from upstate NY.

Write soon...

RICHARD B. ROSS
SEATTLE, WA.

Editor's Note: As I have always lived in NYC, and much of the events in this letter occurred before my time, I sincerely thank Richard for this informative letter and welcome responses. I always encourage your own correspondence as well- let's hear your fondest memories! Remember, if you don't specify "NOT FOR PUBLICATION," I'm assuming it's o.k. for me to put it into print!- E.G.

Love your newsletter! Wanted to include it with Dave's and Ron's to what I consider the Big 3!

STEVE DICKINSON
BOSTON, MA.



A strange thing happened as I worked on this issue, particularly when typing in Mike Rodger's piece on the '79 St. Louis scene...

I began to feel very, very sad.

It's not just that wrestling was better then. I began reading through some of the names like Bruiser Brody, David Von Erich, Pat O'Conner and realized that these mighty men were no longer with us. Others were long retired or shells of their former selves, just living off their names.

12 years is a real long time in professional wrestling.

I started to think of my own life as well. At 19 I was in college, in a sheltered, secure environment. My father was alive and well; he was there to protect me. I had a childhood sweetheart- we would always be there for each other.

Things didn't work out quite so well...

My father died, I left the college cocoon to struggle along in many different jobs, and my girlfriend is now married to someone else with a baby to prove it.

A dozen years will certainly open your eyes to a great many things.

I don't mean for this to sound negative. I have a great job, loving friends and family, a wonderful new girlfriend, a bulletin that has brought me closer to people throughout the globe, and of course my health. Yet the older you get, the more you become aware of your own mortality and a certain understanding of time.

Doing this issue has helped remind me of a hard but simple lesson: as cliched and corny as it may sound, the years do in fact fly by and we should derive some joy from each and every day.

FOR WTAN BY DR. MICHAEL LANO

MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER OF THE LAST 5 YEARS

FOR THE LAST 6 YEARS, MADUSA MICELI HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT OF A MIRACLE IN OUR BUSINESS. DESPITE AN UPSETTING AND DIFFICULT CHILDHOOD, SHE HAD RISEN ABOVE THAT AND HER INDEPENDENCE AND FIGHTING SPIRIT PUT HERSELF THRU NURSING SCHOOL. THAT SAME FIGHTING SPIRIT HAS MADE HER THE TOP FOREIGN FEMALE IN JAPAN'S HISTORY.

AFTER NURSING THE ELDERLY AND INDIGENT FOR TWO YEARS, MADUSA BEGAN WEIGHT TRAINING AND BODY BUILDING AT WHICH SHE EXCELLED. SOME OLD FART TOLD HER ABOUT THE GREAT EXPOSURE WRESTLING COULD BE FOR HER, WHICH SHE DOUBTED AS ANY ONE WOULD. EVENTUALLY, THEY GOT HER TO EDDIE SHARKEY, WHO GOT HER TRAINED AND OFF SHE WENT INDEPENDENTLY. SHE EVENTUALLY, AS WE KNOW, LINKED UP WITH VERNE GAGNE, "WHO WAS ALWAYS VERY FAIR WITH ME, AND IN PRESENTING WOMEN'S WRESTLING." FORTUNATELY FOR MADUSA, WHO CHOSE HER NAME TO DIFFER FROM THE MYTHICAL MEDUSA MEANING ROUGHLY MADE IN THE USA, VERNE ONLY KNEW OLD STYLE WITH FEW SEXUAL GIMMICKS WE FIND SO PREVALENT IN LPWA, AND ELSEWHERE IN THE STATES.

WHEN ALL JAPAN WOMEN'S CHAMP, CHIGUSA NAGOYA HAD HER BRIEF TOUR OF THE STATES AND CALGARY, MADUSA WAS ASKED TO BE HER OPPONENT, AND PUT ON SUCH A GREAT PERFORMANCE, WAS ASKED TO GO TO JAPAN. NOTHING UNUSUAL ABOUT THAT INITIALLY, SINCE MOOLAH AND HER WORKERS HAD WORKED AJW FOR YEARS. BUT MADUSA WAS ASKED TO STAY ON, AND DECIDED TO IMPROVE HERSELF TO THE ULTIMATE- THAT IS, TRAIN AND BECOME A JAPANESE STYLE WRESTLER. AND SO SHE STAYED FOR OVER 18 MONTHS.

WHAT MAKES THIS SO REMARKABLE IS THAT NO MAN OR WOMAN UNTIL THIS TIME HAD DECIDED TO BE SPECIFICALLY TRAINED JAPANESE STYLE, ASKING TO BE TREATED JUST LIKE ONE OF THE SCRUBS THERE. MADUSA HAD TO ENGAGE IN GRUELING, DANGEROUS BOXING SHOOT, AND HAS BROKEN HER NOSE AND HAD IT SHAVED INTO HER BRAIN AT LEAST 4 TIMES. SCARS, KELOID, BROKEN BONES EVERYWHERE- WHEN THEY BREAK A BONE- IT GETS TAPED AND THE WORKER THROWN RIGHT BACK IN THERE. DESTROYER OR ANTHON GEESINK NEVER PICKED UP JAPANESE STYLE, ALTHOUGH THEY LIVED THERE FOR SEVERAL YEARS. MADUSA WAS THE FIRST IN HER CLASS TO TRULY BECOME NOT ONLY A JAPANESE WORKER, BUT A JAPANESE LEGEND. BOOKS WERE WRITTEN ABOUT HER, SHE PUT OUT SEVERAL SONGS, A COMPACT DISK "WHO'S MADUSA", AND MUSIC VIDEO, AND SEVERAL OTHER VIDEOS SOLD OUT THAT WERE DONE SPECIFICALLY ON THIS ATHLETE EVERYONE WAS TALKING ABOUT.

IM WRITING THIS BECAUSE AT SEVERAL OF THE LPWA TAPINGS, SHE HAS APPEARED IN HER LATEST PERSONA- THAT OF A ROWDY MEL GIBSONESQUE TOUGH PERSON- WITH NO SEXUAL APPEAL TO MALES. LPWA MGT. HAS ASKED FOR SKIMPY SUITS AND MORE FEMINITY, NOT APPRECIATING THE AMAZING MOVES AND BUMPS THIS IMPROVED WORKER CAN SHOW. AND WITH ALL THE WORKERS WHO CAN HARDLY DO ANYTHING AT LPWA, I FEEL WE ALL SHOULD SUPPORT MADUSA'S STANCE- THAT IS, AMERICA GROW UP. LET'S GET BACK TO APPRECIATING ONE'S ABILITIES INSTEAD OF EYELINER AND CLEAVAGE. AND FOR SHEER ABILITY IMPROVEMENT, DESIRE AND HEART, MICELI SHOULD'VE WON THE WON MOST IMPROVED FOR THE LAST 5 OR 10 YEARS RUNNING. I AM "MAD" AT THE "USA" FOR NOT VOTING HER THIS AWARD WHEN SHE WON IT IN JAPAN, ALONG WITH A MULTITUDE OF OTHER JAPANESE PRESS AWARDS. MADUSA WILL SING THE NATIONAL ANTHEM APRIL 27TH IN MINNEAPOLIS AT A GLOBALLY TELEVIEWED RUGBY FINAL, AND WRESTLE IN OHIO MAY 2ND FOR CHARITY AGAINST ROCKIN' ROBIN. I URGE YOU TO ALL SUPPORT WHAT MAY BE OUR LAST HOPE FOR FEMALE CREDIBILITY IN WRESTLING FOR THIS SINGER, ACTRESS, MODEL AND MOST IMPROVED WRESTLER.

CENTRAL STATES TITLE:

TAG CHAMPIONS

Randy Alls
Bob Sweetan 2/22/79
Ron Starr 8/23/79
The Turk 10/4/79

Hartford Love & Jerry Brown
Bill Irwin & Bryan St. John (5/17/79)
Jerry Brown & The Turk
(Tournament- Brown left area at end of year)

1979 Central States Wrestler Of The Year

Bob Sweetan wins this award by holding the Central States Title nearly 6 months and by beating such stars as Frank Hill, Randy Alls, Bob Brown, Gama Singh, Bryan St. John, Dick Murdock and Dick The Bruiser.

1. Bob Sweetan
2. Ron Starr
3. Bulldog Brown
4. Turk
5. Jerry Brown
6. Randy Alls

1979 Tag Team Of The Year

Jerry Brown & The Turk capture this honor by winning a one night tournament for the titles. They beat such teams as Bulldog Brown & Gama Singh, Bruiser Brody & Omar Atlas, Bill Irwin & Pat O'Conner, Frank Hill & Rufus Jones, Bryan St. John & Bill Irwin

1. Jerry Brown & The Turk
2. Jerry Brown & Hartford Love
3. Bryan St. John & Bill Irwin
4. Bulldog Brown & Randy Alls

RESULTS:

2/23/79 St. Louis

Harley Race W Ric Flair NWA Title Match, Alls & St. John W Brown & Mike Bowyer, Bobo Brazil W Jerry Brown, Dick Murdock W Tom Andrews, Dick the Bruiser W Roger Kirby (Missouri Title), Pat O'Conner & Ox Baker W Bruiser Brody & Bob Sweetan DQ

3/23/79 St. Louis

Race W Brody NWA Title, Tom Andrews & Randy Alls W Hartford Love & M. Bowyer, Sweetan W St. John, Brazil & O'Conner W Bob Brown & Jerry Brown, Dick Murdock Drew Ted Dibiase, Dick The Bruiser W Siegfried Steinke

6/15/79 St. Louis

Race W David Von Erich NWA Title, Dick The Bruiser W Bruiser Brody DQ Missouri Title Match, Frank Hill & Bryan St. John W The Turk & Steve Hall, Brown W Tom Andrews, Kevin Von Erich & Rufus Jones W Jerry Brown & Bob Sweetan, Dick Murdock W Pat O'Conner

8/10/79 St. Louis

Race W Murdock NWA Title, Bruiser & David Von Erich W Ox Baker & Gene Kiniski, Brody W Roger Kirby, Kevin Von Erich & Pat O'Conner W Lord Al Hayes & Sweetan, Hill W Sonny Driver, Ron Starr W Brown, Brazil W Jerry Brown

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Mike Rodgers publishes the long-running Rings Around The Northwest- only 50 cents to Mike Rodgers- 2470 SE Lewellyn, Troutdale, Or. 97060. He also sells pix and various other rasslin' items.)

A hammerlock on the past

Thanks to Cliff Ducey of the Boston Sunday Herald & The Movie Channel's famed Drive-In Movie Critic, Joe Bob Briggs for their kind words about WT&N. Reprinted below is a letter Joe Bob sent to Vic Stanley, prolific contributor to WT&N!



5/21/91
Dear Vic -
I never thanked
you for the plug
in "Wrestling
Then & Now" -
And what a
nice news letter
that is!
Have in there -
Joe Bob



Perhaps the best part of the wonderful world of wrestling is the wonderful people who support the sport and keep it thriving through their dedication.

Just such a person is Evan Ginzburg, who is not only an English teacher and New York City Board of Education administrator, but also the driving force behind "Wrestling - Then & Now."

Trumpheted as "wrestling fandom's only nostalgia bulletin," WT&N takes us back to a time when the good guys were groovy and the bad guys were gruesome.

The June issue alone - 10 pages packed tighter than Miss Elizabeth's dress - walks down memory lane with Dangerous Danny McShain (1941), the second part of an extensive interview with Lou Albano, a recap of a 1980 Madison Square Garden card with a young Hulk Hogan facing off against Gerilla Monsoon, a capsule look at the top wrestlers of 1952, and memories of 1961.

WT&N is published monthly at \$1.25 per issue, \$8 for six months. For more information or a sample copy, write WT&N c/o Ginzburg, P.O. Box 471, Oakland Gardens Station, Flushing, N.Y. 11364.

CLIFF DUCEY INSIDE WRESTLING

THE BRITISH INVASION: Seen in the Garden last weekend were the WWF superstars stopping to take their afternoon tea.

This latest culture shock comes after the wrestlers took the United Kingdom by storm during a sold-out, nine-day tour which ended May 2.

The Brits were so crazy about the "WWF Rampage - A Tour de Force," the WWF ran out of souvenirs after the first show and had to send home for more. The tour took in \$1.5 million in merchandise sales over nine dates, breaking records (in every sense of the word) established by the middle-aged pop supergroup New Kids on the Block.

Not surprisingly, the wrestler to whom the fans flocked was "The British Bulldog" Davey Boy Smith.

Wild Red Berry, Ex-Wrestler, Dies in Kansas

PITTSBURG, Kan. (AP)—Ralph (Wild Red) Berry, a former professional wrestler well known to fans when television wrestling was at its height, died Saturday of an apparent heart attack. He was 66.

Berry had played a round of golf in the morning and had done some yard work. He was stricken at his home.

He leaves his wife, Lil, and a son, Jim. Funeral arrangements were incomplete.

"Wild Red" began to wrestle professionally while a teen-ager living near Chicopee, Kan. He had 18 bouts as a boxer, but gave up boxing after breaking both hands in a fight. He remained active in wrestling until about five years ago.

GARY FISHMAN'S COLUMN

GARY FISHMAN'S SURVIVAL GUIDE FOR MARRIED WRESTLING FANS

We at WT&N have heard from many of you who are married, asking for advice on how to keep married life from interfering with wrestling. In response, I have put together a few simple rules and techniques for dealing with the intricacies of this problem:

1) Include your wife as much as possible when spending the night talking about wrestling on the phone. You might find that she can make a real contribution on vital subjects such as who the participants of next year's Wrestlemania might be or how many rating points Vince McMahon lied about during the 1989 May sweeps.

2) Vacations: I remember one time I went away with my wife and the whole vacation she didn't let me watch wrestling or TV or attend a show or read a bulletin. It was the worst honeymoon anyone ever had. When going on vacation never say "Let's go back to the room to watch wrestling." Instead, tell her how important you think it is to get to bed early & rest up so that you'll be all ready to go sightseeing in the morning. At just the right time, put on the TV and say "Let's see what's on." Just happen to turn the station that has wrestling on and act surprised. While watching, make sure you glance at a travel brochure once in a while and declare "I can't wait until tomorrow."

3) Going to cards- The hardest part about mixing marriage and wrestling is trying to attend live cards, especially when the local arena is 150 miles away. No matter how many times in a week you go to live cards, always say "I'm entitled to one night out a week." If she remembers that you just went two days ago, say that "It makes up for the two nights last year that you stayed home sick with the flu and remind her of the time that she got to go out with her mother 2 nights in a row."

If you follow these simple methods, you're guaranteed to have a successful marriage just like me.

(EDITOR'S NOTE- Gary Fishman is currently looking for the following: A) Wrestling programs from Ga. circa 1974-75. B) An apartment in the N.Y. area for ONE!).

25 People I would like to meet face to face (but know I never will, so I can say anything I like, yuk, yuk!) And, yes, this one is listed in order. Anyone with a complaint about your placing can put yourself lower or call me at 902-243-2882 and yell at me. (Man, is that a great scam especially designed to get people to call and relieve some of the boredom of my lonely evenings without it costing me anything!)

1/ Cari Goldberg. Reviewer without peer for FACTSHEET FIVE (\$3.35 from 6 Arizona Ave., Rensselaer, N.Y., 12144-4502) I envy her new hubby. Hope he's a good bowler!

2/ Cheryl A. Townsend. Also known as "The Cat". Excellent poetess. (Send some dollars to 4975 Comanche Trail, Stow, Oh., 44225 to find out) Great looker. Great bod. How do you spell that sound tomcats make at certain times?

3/ Traci Lords. Need I say more?

4/ Sherri Martel. The sexsational queen. Best worker in the business.

5/ Marilyn Rundle. Is there ANYONE in wrestling fandom who sounds like more fun?

6/ Belinda Subraman. Another great poetess. Sensuous lady. (Send some dollars to P.O. Box 370322, El Paso, Tx, 79937 to sample her work). Writes good short stories, too.

(Wonder why these are all women????)

7/ Greg Miller. Good friend.

8/ Brian Tramel. Ditto. Publisher of RIOT, soon to reappear.

9/ Teresa DeMarie. Another ditto. Top notch writer.

10/ Vic Stanley. Yeah, still more dittoes. Or dittoes. Or ditto? (Hey, this word processor has words in its dictionary I don't know the meaning of!) Hey, Vic: what does ditto mean?

1/ Marianne Ryan. Good friend. Shut up, Zinger!

2/ Jim Testa. Publisher of the best music zine around, or at least New Jersey. (Two bucks to 418 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J., 07087 will get ya a copy of Jersey Beat.)

3/ Mike Gunderloy. An inspiration to me. Publisher of FF.

4/ David R. Wyder, friend and publisher of ASH and DAILY OW. (Send a few bucks to 121 Gregory Ave., #B-7, Passaic, N.J., 07055. Ask for samples.)

5/ Evan. Friend and publisher of something or other.

6/ Janice Levine (Ya gotta be sharp to catch this one, folks!)

7/ Stephanie du Plessis. Cool chick who is writing the hilarious serialized novel called The Snopeses Go Camping. Send five bucks to Steph at P.O. Box 4697, San Francisco, CA., 94101 for the five that are out and the one she's writing.)

8/ A talented young guy who lives in Philadelphia and who shall remain nameless.

9/ Amber. Former (hopefully present and future) co-host of CASSETTE WRESTLING NEWS. A great talent.

10/ Jeff Zinger. (Hey, Zinger: this thing is FULL of inside jokes, huh?)

1/ Dick Freeman. Friend and publisher of computer zine PBW.

2/ Sophie. Publisher of MENTERTAINMENT (A buck to P.O. Box 445, Elizabeth, N.J., 07202. Very cool lady. EVERYONE should try this zine!)

3/ Jon Gallagher. I loved the center story of the Mar. 15 edition. (\$1.50 to P.O. Box 65, Knoxville, IL., 61448.

4/ Jeff Mullins. Publisher of the great PRO WRESTLING USHI. (Try an issue or three. \$1.50 to P.O. Box 36189, San Jose, CA., 95158.)

5/ Dennis Soares. Good singer. Married to better singer Christy. Has his own studio. Makes a living from indie music. (An 11 song sampler tape is available for \$5.99 from Revelation Records, 322 Berkshire Lane, Stockton, Ca., 95207).

If you ain't on here and think you should be --call me up! h, another scheme!

See y'all. (Reminiscent of J.D. McKay, ain't it?)

MY FLIGHT FROM MINNEAPOLIS TO CHICAGO WITH PRETTY BOY BOBBY HEENAN

By Vic Stanley

Due to overwhelming popular demand, (almost 3 responses) I have decided to follow up on not one, but several of the storylines listed in my column in issue 13. Here is entry number 1. This story is absolutely factual.

Back in the mid 1970s when the AWA was the king of wrestling promotions in the Midwest, I took the opportunity to visit some close friends in suburban Minneapolis. The actual visit was restful and uneventful, and for my return to Chicago I was looking forward to a quiet red eye flight. However, well after everybody was seated and strapped in for takeoff, I sensed a wave of whispers approaching row by row. When I looked up, I was immediately overcome by a nightmarish bleach blonde apparition bedecked from head to toe in a then fashionably chic buckskin and leather fringed Daniel Boone outfit, replete with wide brimmed hat. A middle aged businessman seated across from me said to his companion "That's that Heenan guy! You know, the wrestler!" Pretty Boy passed us all as if we didn't exist, and seated himself in the very last row next to the flight attendant stand. I assumed that this was the seat he always reserved in order to avoid being annoyed. Apparently, Verne Gagne humiliated him in a particularly heinous manner earlier this evening, because he seemed especially surly on this occasion.

Since I had long admired Bobby's sense of fair play, I made the decision to approach him for an autograph and possibly a brief chat. Perhaps my confidence was still bolstered by my pleasant encounter with Senator Eugene McCarthy on my previous flight, and reasoned that Bobby would be no less gracious. But as a precaution, I tried to formulate an escape route in case things went awry. I decided to check the expression on his face as I drew ever closer. If he seemed displeased with our initial eye contact, I would detour to the wash room, pretending that this was my destination all along. Glancing over my shoulder, I noticed that all eyes were upon me and I felt an impending sense of panic and doom as I tread hesitantly to the rear of the plane. When I finally got near enough to read his body language, he was silently saying to me "Don't even think about it, pal!" Plan B immediately went into effect and I entered the washroom. Once inside, I breathed a sigh of relief, then wondered how I would ever make it back to my seat without arousing more resentment from Bobby and curiosity from my fellow passengers. By then I realized that I already looked like a jerk, so I figured that I should go for it and try to strike up a conversation with him. What's the worst he could do? Bodyslam me into a stratospheric vacuum?

"Uh...excuse me...Mr. Heenan, sir? May I..."

"Well at least you've got enough manners to call me sir! You've got more class than those humanoids at the St. Paul Civic Center!" Although he still retained that ever present, slightly annoyed smirk on his face, I immediately realized that he was being as cordial as he could ever possibly be without straying from his character.

"I'm a big fan of yours. I've always admired your managerial skill and..."

"Whatever it is, get it off your chest quick, pal. I've got lovelorn stewardesses to take care of here!"

The stewardesses laughed. They seemed to know Bobby. One of them threw several packets of peanuts in his lap.

"You trying to tell me something, toots?" Bobby queried. "This is the president of my International Fan Club," he said as he motioned to me. "You should become a member, honey."

I was so stunned when he offered me the seat next to him that I nearly sat on his Clint Eastwood hat, and for a moment I was speechless. Picking up on my uneasiness, Bobby immediately began kibbitzing.

"You look like you're jumping bail. What did you do? No, let me guess. There's a lot of sodomy laws in Minnesota. Are you a farmer?"

By now, all passengers within earshot were laughing out loud. But despite this, I warmed to Bobby quickly since I could sense that it was all good natured.

Although he was obviously not going to expose the business and Kay-Fabed me to the max, he was a lot of fun to talk to. He mostly insulted the good guys and praised the heels for their integrity. When the stewardesses began to pass out the snacks - some kind of meat sandwich, I took it as a good time to return to my own seat, but not before getting an autographed air sickness bag. As I stood up, Bobby sniffed his sandwich and quipped,

"I hope this isn't from an animal that you knew intimately, pal. Good luck with your parole hearing."

I have met many famous personalities in my life, but this experience stands out as a highlight. Bobby Heenan will always be a role model and an inspiration to me.

Next Time:



My Hollywood Hot Tub Weekend with the Landers Sisters (aka Ecstasy in the Silicone Valleys)

WILD WEST Characters



Meet the Author

Dale Pierce was born in Ohio, but grew up in Arizona. He earned a bachelor's degree in English from Grand Canyon College and his teaching credentials from Arizona State University and Ottawa University.

He has written and had published two novels, *The Wind Blows Death* and *Play Me the Song of Death*. An upcoming release is titled *Bullring*.

Over the years, he has turned out a sizable number of articles for newspapers and magazines. He is one of the contributors to a massive encyclopedia on bullfighting published in Spain. He writes for various newspapers published in Spain, France and Mexico.

Dale Pierce handles publicity for budding celebrities in various aspects of the entertainment field. His articles on actors, bullfighters, wrestlers, boxers, film directors, entertainers, politicians and historical figures often appear in magazines.

He is a steady contributor to such publications as *True West*, *Wrestling World*, *World of Fandom*, and *Fangoria*.

Pierce presents little-known and well-known aspects of the good, the bad, and the interesting among the characters of Western history. In *Wild West Characters*:



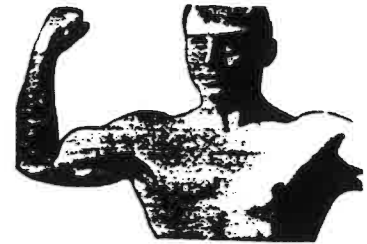
WT&N BOOK EXCERPT-

DALE PIERCE'S WILD WEST
CHARACTERS

FRED BEELL

(1877 - 1925)

Wrestler



Fred Beell (Photo from the collection of Charles E. Gilbert)

While charges of fakery abound in today's world of professional wrestling, things were taken much more seriously in the time of Fred Beell, who reportedly could go either way, meaning if circumstances fit his needs, he would be more than willing to fix the end of a bout, but when provoked, could hurt a man faster than he could blink his eyes.

Throughout the southwest and midwest, his name was well recognized, both before and after his reign as World Heavyweight Champion. During a lengthy career, he had many victories over formidable opponents, the most important being Frank Gotch.

In truth, Beell was well on the way to losing this 1906 confrontation, when his opponent accidentally tripped and struck his head on a ringpost, knocking himself out. From there a pin was easy, but the triumph was shortlived. Gotch asked for a rematch, got it, and scored a humiliating win.

Beell died in a car crash in 1925, but one of the holds he introduced to the wrestling world lives on, used interchangeably in "real" action as well as "staged" shows.

The move, called "The Beell Throw" or more simply, "The Beell," involves hooking an opponent by the neck and beneath the shoulder, then hurling him across the ring like a big beach ball. This, once Beell's trademark move, used just before pinning his challengers, was later duplicated by others and incorporated into their matches. Though this hold is seen on nearly every wrestling show broadcast today, its inventor has sadly faded into oblivion.

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As I recently conducted interviews with two of the legends of the sport, John Tolos & Lou Albano (issues 15-17), I felt it might be interesting speaking to one of the "young lions," west coast sensation Scott Cole. It's a tough life for a young wrestler and we explore this theme with the gracious Mr. Cole.

EG: When did you realize you wanted to become a pro wrestler and who were your early favorites?

SC: Well, I started watching pro wrestling at a very young age (2 years old!). Sure, you say how could you understand what was going on? Well, I didn't, but I loved to sit and watch. My dad says I would sit there and clap and laugh at the show. My favorites were Dick the Bruiser and the Crusher. Later when we moved to Indiana, I liked to watch Jerry The King Lawler since he wrestled in my home town once a week. I would make my dad take me to see him. I suppose I decided to try to become a pro at age 15. Bill Dundee said I had potential and used to talk to me at the matches. I finally entered wrestling school at the age of 24!

EG: How did you break in? Tell us about your early experiences in wrestling school. Its been said that some trainers try to break the spirit of young wrestlers, taking their non-refundable fees. Have you seen any situations like that?

SC: Well, I will tell you it wasn't easy. I worked very hard to become a pro. The only experiences I can relate to you are the injuries I had to go through: a broken elbow, torn right cruciate knee ligament, right eye laceration, several strains and muscle aches that you would not believe! I had the best trainer in the country, Jesse Hernandez out of San Bernardino, Ca. He worked on me and taught me everything he could. He never rushed me; I did the best that I could. When I was ready for my first match he told me so. He was honest and a great friend. I personally have not seen any mishandling of students, but I also have not visited other schools either.

EG: Tell us what was going through your head during your first match. Who was your opponent and where did it happen?

SC: Well, as best as I can tell, confusion was the only thing in my mind. I was very excited on the way out to the ring, but when I got in the ring and saw the 1000 fans, I got very scared. I toughened up and won a two out of three falls match in Pomona, Ca. over the Black Nightmare. It was the greatest night of my life; after the show Jesse told me "now you can call yourself a pro."

EG: There is a thin line between paying ones dues and outright exploitation by promoters. How do you feel about conditions and pay for young wrestlers?

SC: That is a difficult question to answer. I feel that young wrestlers today have to pay their dues just like anyone else should. I am very lucky to have the trainer I did because he taught me to protect myself and handle all the situations that might come up with certain promoters. I have worked for some very good people and some not so good people, but I always made sure I did not get screwed; that's one advantage to a great trainer! As far as pay goes you have to start at the bottom and work your way up. I will make bigger money down the road, but for now I am happy with my monetary situation.

EG: How do you feel about blading?

SC: Again a very hard question to answer. You see, I have bled once during a match and it wasn't because I bladed anything. As far as I am concerned any wrestler who feels he has to cut himself obviously is afraid his pure talent won't get him over. I have never been asked to do anything like that and would refuse if asked to do so. A wrestler is a human and has rights; every time you step in the ring you take the risk getting hurt. Why hurt yourself on purpose?

EG: How do you change your style when you are in the ring against Lucha Libre style wrestlers? Have you wrestled in Mexico and what are the differences?

SC: I really do not have to change my style at all- you see I trained in Mexican style as well as American wrestling styles so I can blend very well with that style. A lot of Americans who wrestle in Mexico will stick with their own style forcing the Mexicans to adjust to them. Yes, I have wrestled in Mexico and the pace is much faster than in the states. Very fast action paced wrestling is the ticket in Mexico. I enjoy going to Mexico when I can.

EG: What are your goals in wrestling? Do you think in this day and age of superlarge wrestlers will your size work against you?

SC: My goal just like most wrestlers is to be a champion. I am the #3 contender for the WSWA Heavyweight Title and hope to get a title shot soon. My size has never held me back- with my workouts and training I am getting bigger. Remember, "it's not the size of the dog in the fight, but the size of the fight in the dog." I promise you I will make it and I will make it BIG!

EG: How do people react when they hear of your profession? Do you have another job outside of wrestling?

SC: Most people are pretty amazed to hear that I wrestle, but most people think it is very interesting and ask a lot of questions. I am a nurse, ironic isn't it?

EG: Any other comments?

SC: Yes I have. I would like to thank Wrestling- Then & Now for the opportunity to do this interview and to state some of my personal views. I will include my address (4417 Mission Ave. H106 Oceanside, Ca. 92057) so if any of your readers would like to contact me, feel free. If you'd like autographs or maybe you would like to have a question answered, I would be more than happy to do so. Thanks again and best wishes to all of you!

Pro
Wrestling
LUCHA LIBRE



LA EMPRESA WESTERN STATES WRESTLING ASSOCIATION

PRESENTA LUCHA LIBRE ESTILO MEXICO
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SAGRADO CORAZON DE POMONA (1215 S. HAMILTON)

DOMINGO 11 DE NOVIEMBRE 6:00 PM

* GRAN COMBATES * NO SE LO PIERDA
Lucha Escolar en Revuelos

ANGEL SOLIDARIO (ZACATECAS) VS VETERINARIO (MEXICO, D.F.)
Y LARRY "BULLDOG" SIMPSON VS TIM PATTERSON

BILLY ANDERSON VS LARRY LUDEN

SCOTT COLE VS BLACK NIGHTMARE

EDDIE VALDEZ VS FRAILE #2
(MEXICO, D.F.) (CD. JUAREZ)

A las 7:00 p.m. en la Lucha Libre
Maravillas, Grupos Musicales y
Artistas Mexicanos

NO SE LO PIERDA

ENCOUNTERING THE STARS OF THE PAST
NICK GULAS PROMOTIONS 1970's
BY A. NONYMOUS



Len Rossi:

At one time as popular in the south as Jerry Lawler is now. A fine, scientific technician who really knew his stuff and could dazzle his opponents with sensational flying moves. A near-fatal accident was the biggest tragedy in his life, which nearly destroyed his body and cut off his career for many years. He later developed a series of health food stores throughout Tennessee, capitalizing on his tremendous fan appeal.

JC Dykes:

A stingy and quarrelsome type to many outside the ring and hated manager within, who represented The Infernos and other villains. Few realize Dykes unintentionally saved the life of Don Greene. On the night Frank Hester, Sam Bass, and Pepe Lopez all died in a fiery inferno of a crash outside Memphis, Greene was supposedly going to be riding in that car too. Dykes, however, not wishing to drive by himself, asked Greene to make the ride back to Nashville with him, so he wouldn't fall asleep at the wheel on the long, dangerous road. Greene agreed and one can only imagine the chilling feeling he must have had to see the other car totalled (they say the accident was so bad, the only way the corpses were identified was by dental records and the fact someone behind knew where each man had been sitting in the car). In the ring, Dykes portrayed an arrogant, parable-spouting intellectual who produced tremendous heat with the fans. He also liked to wear bow ties. Real name was Jimmy Dykes.

The Fargo Brothers:

Gulas's answer to the popular drawing power of The Golden Grahams in the east. Rather than pay for the real thing he created bleached blonde brothers of his own in the form of Jackie Fargo (Jack Welch) and Don Fargo (Don Kult), who as "brothers" were every bit as impressive and villainous as the Grahams. Later, both men became fan favorites, but during their days as villains there were few hated more by the fans. Jackie Fargo is still around, but Don has disappeared.

Gentleman Saul Weigneroff:

Now runs a sign shop in Nashville. Perhaps the best and most hated manager to ever appear in the south and long time representative for The Von Brauner brothers. A little Jewish man who always wore a hat and carried a cane which he would use to trip or belt his opponents, or toss to his man, to use. Saul's antics were legendary, including a tongue in cheek run for President in the 1960's. While highly respected for his ability to fire up the crowd, he was reportedly hard to get along with as a person. He knew wrestling though and was pretty much a historian on the subject. He could also wrestle, although he invariably lost his bouts, including one bloody brawl with a young Terry Funk, in which both men bled, but the manager was carried out on a stretcher.

Chris Colt:

This wild hippy wrestler was the perfect villain to annoy the redneck and good old boy element of fans in the Tennessee area and although he was a strange, unpredictable individual both in and out of the ring, he became a top drawing card overnight. For a brief while, he had a scrawny valet named Billy Colt, a "brother" who also appeared in tag team action from time to time with him. Bill Dundee also served as tag team partner on occasions and was one of the reasons why Don Fargo became a fan favorite. The fans hated Colt more than they hated Fargo! Their bouts were always wild bloodbaths, with both men cut open, brawling with everything in sight.

This was the Tennessee-Kentucky office prior to Jarrett's taking over. It produced many interesting characters, some of whom might be worth a look at.

Nick Gulas:

Tightwad promoter of the whole show, who was known for ignorant one-liners behind the scenes such as when he accused one of the wrestlers of not being able to survive on a meager weekly payoff because "All you do is waste your money on booze and drugs. I told you not to go taking them marijuana pills!" Some people made good money with him but others wound up living in flophouses and selling blood to afford their way out of the territory after Gulas promised them, "Come on in, you'll be taken care of," and they got "taken" instead. Yet the enterprising little Greek was one shrewd customer and quite a wheel-and-dealer in his prime. Loved by some and hated by others, he was probably one of the most controversial of all the old time promoters.

Jerry Lawler:

Not the hot, steaming deal he is today, Lawler started out as a rulebreaker and was glad to be on the undercard, just to be working. Also teamed for a short time with "brother" Steve. Lawler, an accomplished artist, also did a comic strip for Wrestling Monthly magazine, called The Patriot, in which a masked hero met and beat many real rulebreakers, while seeking the masked Doctor Devil, who'd killed his father in the ring (Editor's Note: I reprinted a panel in issue #15-E.G.). The Patriot, incidentally, was a popular strip, which offered cartoon characters of John Tolos, The Sheik, Ray Gunkle, The Assassins, Waldo Von Erich, Luke Graham, Pedro Morales, Tarzan Tyler, and more. It also included some inside humor. In a bout with The Sheik, The Patriot ducks out of a headlock and The Sheik drives his pencil into his own arm, to which The Patriot is shown thinking, "High Spot" in the caption, one of the many inside jokes only insiders at the time knew. Curious to note the different personality of the old Jerry Lawler, compared to now.

George Gulas:

Goofy, basketball playing son of Nick Gulas who managed to wrestle thanks to Daddy's puppet strings. He was one of the sorriest wrestlers around and also one of the stiffest, known for murderous chops that landed resoundingly hard. George was always a better ballplayer than a wrestler.

Don & Al Greene:

A murderous tag team in their prime, now running an appliance store together in downtown Nashville. These two actual brothers were main eventers for a long stretch down south, although they would have been considered dull and colorless by modern standards. A brief comeback was staged by Don in the early 1980s, with an Independent group run by Joey Rossi, but he soon tired of this and quit again. In his brief comeback, Don showed he hadn't lost any ability, although used as a fan favorite and teamed with former arch enemy, Len Rossi. Al was smarter and stayed clear of comeback trail.

The Mighty Yankees:

Eddie Sullivan and Rip Tyler under hoods were the originals, although Gulas saw the team such a draw, he often had two or three different Mighty Yankee teams working on different cards the same night, in different towns. One headliner arose from a lawsuit where one of the Yankees, Sullivan presumably, belted a spectator, but the suit was lost when it was proven the fan took the first swipe.



IN THE DEVIL'S DEN
BY THE JERSEY DEVIL

BY NOW, THE DROOLING, TOOTHLESS, GEEKS OF THE WORLD ARE PROBABLY REJOICING OVER THE RETURN OF BOB BACKLUND TO THE WRESTLING WORLD FOR HERB ABRAMS' UWF. AT A RECENT UWF TV TAPING IN THE ROTTEN APPLE, ABRAMS ANNOUNCED THE RETURN OF OLD HOWDY DOODY AT HIS JUNE PAY PER SNORE. IN A DISPLAY THAT WAS NAUSEATING ENOUGH TO MAKE KIDNEY STONES SEEM LIKE A STUBBED TOE, THE DOODYMAN SHOWED THE CROWD A CHAMPIONSHIP BELT THAT SOME "YOUNG FANS" MADE FOR HIM, AND TOLD THEM HOW PROUD HE WAS OF THAT BELT. YEAH, RIGHT. BACKLUND'S OPPONENT AT THE PAY PER SNORE, IVAN KOLOFF PROCEEDED TO ENTER THE RING AND SMASH THE BELT TO PIECES! OH, HOW TERRIBLE! OH, HOW DIABOLICAL! OH, HOW I LOVED IT! THE ONLY UPSETTING ASPECT OF THIS SCENE IS THAT NOW WE'LL BE SUBJECT TO UNTOLD INTERVIEWS WITH OLD HOWDY DOODY ABOUT MOM, APPLE PIE AND CHEVROLET! BARRRRF!

THIS REMINDS ME OF MY EARLY WORKING DAYS, WHEN I WAS JUST OUT OF SCHOOL AND ON MY FIRST JOB. THIS WAS A LITTLE BEFORE MY NOW LEGENDARY SUCCESS IN MY CHOSEN FIELD, BROUGHT ME FAME AND FORTUNE. I KNEW IT WOULD BE INTERESTING TO SEE HOW THE PEONS EARNED A LIVING, SO I DECIDED TO LEND MY TALENTS OUT FOR A BRIEF TIME. THE JOB WAS BARELY TOLERABLE. THE PLACE WAS A VERITABLE DEPARTMENT STORE OF GEEDOM. THE PRINCE OF THE GEEKS WAS A YOUNG GUY NAMED BRIAN WHO LIVED AND BREATHED BOB BACKLUND. IF BACKLUND CRIED, BRIAN CRIED. IF BACKLUND BLEED, BRIAN BLEED (NOT LITERALLY, YOU DORKS). ONCE A MONTH, ON A TUESDAY MORNING, BRIAN WOULD SHOW UP HOURS LATE FOR WORK IN ORDER TO BE FIRST ON LINE WHEN TICKETS FOR THE NEXT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN CARD WENT ON SALE. IF VINCE MCMAHON WANTED TO DRAW UP A BLUEPRINT FOR THE ULTIMATE (NO FUN INTENDED) "MARK", THIS WAS THE GUY!

NOW, OLD HOWDY DOODY IS BACK AND A CHILL RUNS UP MY SPINE WHEN I THINK OF HOW GEEK-A-MANIA IS ABOUT TO RUN WILD ONCE AGAIN! I WONDER IF "DR. FRANKENSTEIN" ABRAMS REALIZES JUST WHAT A MONSTER HE HAS CREATED!!!

HEY, YA WANT NOSTALGIA? WELL, THERE IT IS, PAL! HOPE IT'S EVERYTHING YOU REMEMBER IT TO BE.....AND WORSE.

OFTEN IMITATED, NEVER DUPLICATED
THIS IS THE JERSEY DEVIL
FROM DEEP ...IN THE SWAMPS...OF JERSEY

HARRY WHITE ON "HEELS"

Gary Fishman asked me to name my top heels. No one could argue with his list, but my favorite heels were those heels for only a night. Some intense heat could be generated by a loved baby champ when he betrayed his loyal following by breaking rules to save his belt against another baby. People would cry when prototype baby Pat O'Conner was molested by heel Gene Kiniski. Yet in the next card middle index fingers were doing aerobic routines at Pat when he broke rules against baby challenger Cowboy Bob Ellis. Lou Thesz was a master of subtle heel tactics against another face.

Baby champ Dory Funk Jr. was the first to break rules defending against baby Jack Brisco. Later baby champ Jack Brisco was the first to break rules against baby challenger Dory Funk Jr. and got booed and jeered heavily. Playing a heel for just one night when the usual persona was a baby face was always impressive to me.

I'd like to know if Bruno had to cheat to beat another baby and save his belt would his loyal following have booed him? Too bad "the play it safe" Eastern promoters never put him in that position with another baby but once or twice.

Thanks to Steve Yohe for calling me a historian but I'm not. The guys I've heard that are really experts on the past are Tom Burke in Mass., Ron Dobratz and Royal Duncan in Illinois, Don Luce in Ohio, Fred Hornby and Steve Friedlander in N.Y., Ed Garea in Pa., J. Michael Kenyan in Washington State, Jim Melby in Minnesota, Glen Bray and Verne Langdon in Ca., and I'm sure there are more who should make them know to this sheet.

Given the multiple personality/schizoid nature of the business, just how many heels have remained heel characters for most of their careers? I was always amused when a heel started to become cheered or announcers or magazines would say he is a fan favorite and now wrestling "scientifically" when actually his style would still remain the same.

The all-time greatest heel would be Leona Helmsly as a valet.

(EDITOR'S NOTE: If any of my readers are in touch with the "historians" Harry mentions, please extend my personal invite to them to contribute to WT&N).

When is a price increase not (quite) a price increase? Well, the way I plan on doing it. Here's the deal. The cover price for WT&N has always been \$1.25. However, I've given bargain subscriptions at \$12/yr. \$6/6 issues. As a show of appreciation to all of you who have helped WT&N grow, I will honor these rates until after Labor day. That gives you a month or so to renew for as long as you desire at current prices. After Labor Day I plan on just charging the current cover price for subscriptions i.e. \$7.50/6 issues and \$15/yr. I should note that postal increases have made this necessary- it's not a money thing. If you divided the money coming in by the countless hours I put into this thing, they'd carry me away and lock me up. I also purposely waited until I had the new format to make sure I'm giving you twice as much bang for the buck (or whatever other cliché applies here). Anyway, renew now (regardless of whether or not your subscription is up) and avoid the increase!!!!...Readers are encouraged to send in their nostalgia clippings & line-up sheets and to contribute to our various columns. Also hoping to eventually do a yearbook so keep the stuff coming!...My goal for this sheet is to be a true alternative to the news sheets. I love many of them, but there's only so many times I can read the same news on events & wrestlers I care so little about. As far as WT&N goes the WWF "died" once it lost that extra "W"!...Speaking of great sheets, here's a few more- Paul J. Macarthur and David Skolnick's Wrestling Perspective (\$1 to PO Box 401 Camillus, NY 130310), Jeff Osborne's Cassette Wrestling News (\$3.50 to 3420 New Harmony Rd., Evansville, IN 47720. He also has a CUN Best of Vol. 2 featuring a 90 minute Eddie Gilbert interview for \$4) and of course Rodney Leighton's Rod's Reflector (only \$1 to RR3 Pugwash, NS BOK 1L0) which has had some really interesting and moving pieces of late and regularly features our own Vic Stanley...Next issue- Gary Fishman, The Jersey Devil, Dr. Mike Lano, the prolific Vic Stanley, your great letters and AN INTERVIEW WITH LEGENDARY KANGAROO AL COSTELLO...Anybody interested in interviewing veteran wrestlers for the sheet have an open invite. Put your contacts to use for an appreciative audience!...Have music of moment- Best of the Chi-Lites and New Jack City Soundtrack...All 1990 back issues (1-11) available for only \$10 postpaid- all back issues (1-16) only \$13.50 postpaid...An interesting non-wrestling publication you should enjoy is Jim Romanesko's Obscure Publications and Video- PO Box 1334, Milwaukee, WI. 53201...A female fan at the UWF tapings turned me on (pardon the pun) to the nude Sheri Martell pix in Celebrity Sleuth. Pretty hot stuff; she lives up to the title sensational here, guys!...Good flick to check out- Mortal Thoughts...To all of you who write me these long, wonderful letters- my sincerest apologies when I don't respond in kind. It's nearly impossible putting out 2 newsletters (one at work), working 2 jobs, attempting to maintain a relationship and a social life, and keep up with the mail too. I really don't want to come off as unappreciative as one of the real joys of doing this is getting such great letters from everyone. I do try to answer all! Thanks!!!!...Doc Lano's # is 1-900-990-6676 (95 cents a min.) and John Arezzi's is 1-900-246-SLAM...Putting this newsletter together in the new, (hopefully) improved format takes about twice the time as before, but with so many good sheets on the market, I'm doing my best to earn your support. Let me know your likes/dislikes...A reminder- I'll be out in San Diego, Vegas & Tijuana late Aug./early Sept. Anybody wanting to hang out & catch a show, let me know...Last time I was in S.D., a kid behind a deli counter seemed legitimately terrified by my authentic hoodlum Brooklyn accent (which always serves me well as an English Second Language teacher!). I told him N.Y. is so tough that even the ducks in Central Park carry weapons!...I always hate when guys like Johnny Carson trash NYC. They're living out in la la land in their mansions, come into N.Y. once a year and are chaffered to and from their ritzy parties. I can tell you for a fact that if you keep your eyes open and don't look for trouble, the city's not as bad as the media says. Anyway, it's certainly not Pugwash, Nova Scotia, world renowned den of iniquity...Anyway, hope everyone's enjoying the "new" WT&N and their summer!...Catch you all next month...

Wrestling As You Like It

SOUTHERN STATES CHAMPION

By Viola G. May

Few wrestlers can boast of a more colorful background than Freddy Blassie over a ten year period and today he holds the title of Southern States Champion by defeating Don McIntyre in Atlanta, Ga. His winning hold was a reverse full nelson. The presentation of the belt was part of a double celebration as it happened on Freddy's 29th birthday.

His pro career dates back to 1944, after doing amateur wrestling in high school, and two years at St. Louis University, where he holds a B. S. degree.

Blassie was born in St. Louis, but he now lives in Normandy, Mo. He devotes all of his spare time to raising prize winning roses.

An All Around Athlete

Freddy is an all around athlete. Stands 5 ft. 11 in. and weighs 223 pounds. Plays baseball, football and keeps his interest in boxing. He was a member of the heavy-weight boxing ranks in 1943, before turning to wrestling.

His ring methods show that his early training was by top pros and Olympic coaches.

So far no one has been able to hold him with a wristlock. It was taught to him by Billy Hanson and continues to remain a secret. It was used for the first time after eight months of practice and he was sure it was perfected to the utmost.

He is Handsome

Handsome, well built with curly hair and a winning smile, he keeps a natural sun tan at all times by working outside with his roses and working out in his back yard gym behind the rose bushes.

In Louisville, Ky., not too long ago, a famous painter made a sketch of Freddy. It was auctioned and \$225 was raised for charity. At the same time, two of his curls were auctioned and brought \$25.00 each.

He has a technique of his own. Rough wrestling never enters his mind. He prefers to keep his matches clean and scientific. If it becomes necessary, he can still throw good punches. His fists are as good as they were in his days of boxing.

Had 1200 Matches

In his more than 1,200 matches, his percentage of wins is in the 90's. Mention any top name in wrestling and somewhere throughout the U. S. he and Freddy have met.

Besides wrestling, he has been bitten by the movie and TV bug. The most outstanding movie in which he appeared was Demetrius and the Gladiator with Susan Hayward and Victor Mature. On TV he has been seen in some of the Dragnet series, Racket Squad, Boston Blackie and My Friend Irma.

With air travel he is able to spend more time at home with his wife and sons, Ronnie and Gary, ages 7½ and 5 years, and baby Cheryl Ann, age 5 months.

While serving in the Navy, most of his time was spent in the Philippines. After his discharge in 1945, he travelled in Europe, Australia and Honolulu.

His favorites and most successful holds are the atomic drop and reverse spinning neck breaker.

His well known "skadoodle" is not a hold. It is an escape from an opponent, using head and shoulders he scoots backwards, pumping his legs while he remains on his back at all times. The name skadoodle was the outcome of a contest in California, by fans.



FRED BLASSIE

Now and then he runs into a little difficulty. Recently in the Carolinas, while escaping from the clutches of an opponent, he struck the ring post, resulting in nine stitches in his head. It only proves it happens to the best.

The Hollywood movie people are very exclusive. They have unlisted telephones. And they say some of them are so exclusive they have unlisted wives.

FRED BLASSIE—Got into the pro game after wrestling while with the Navy during the war . . . Was champion of the 7th Naval District and, after he turned pro, won the Pacific Coast title . . . Had a temporary setback in 1947 when he suffered a severe head injury from being bounced out of the ring by Rudy Dusek.

MATERIALS ON FRED BLASSIE- "KING OF MEN" GRACIOUSLY SUPPLIED BY DR. MIKE LANO- "KING OF DENTISTRY!"

NO TV!

FRIDAY, JULY 5

NO TV!

Americas' Championship
FREDDIE BLASSIE vs. MIL MASCARAS
Challenger Champion

Challenge Match
BOBO BRAZIL vs. THE DESTROYER

World's Tag-Team Championship
BUDDY AUSTIN vs. LOS MEDICOS
& vs. of
JIM (One Punch) OSBORNE MEXICO
Challengers Champions

Midget Girls
DARLING DAGMAR vs. DIAMOND LIL

Special Event
HAHN LEE vs. ROCKY MONTERO

Added Attraction
BUDDY MORENO vs. CRAZY LUKE GRAHAM

This program subject to change at any time.
These wrestling exhibitions are under the jurisdiction
of the California State Athletic Commission.

WWA Ratings For July

MEN

- 1—Bobo Brazil
- 2—Freddie Blassie
- 3—Mil Mascaras
- 4—Buddy Austin
- 5—Destroyer
- 6—The Sheik
- 7—Pedro Morales
- 8—Ray Stevens
- 9—Crazy Luke Graham
- 10—Buddy Moreno

TAG TEAMS

- 1—The Medics
- 2—Blassie-Austin
- 3—Mil Mascaras-Morales
- 4—Graham-Osborne
- 5—Stevens-Patterson

WOMEN

- 1—Fabulous Moolah
- 2—Betty Niccoli
- 3—Jean (Gidget) Antone
- 4—Bette Boucher
- 5—Kathy Starr